

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CPR-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9271
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9383

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CGEN, PDIP, UR
SUBJECT: US/USSR CONSULAR TALKS - SECOND ROUND, SIXTH SEXXION

REF: MOSCOW 9025, STATE 148259, MOSCOW 8049

1. SIXTH SESSION WAS SHORTEST AND PROBABLY SHARPEST OF SECOND ROUND CONSULAR TALKS TO DATE. AT BEGINNING OF SESSION, EMBASSY'S CONSULAR COUNSELOR REITERATED US WILLINGNESS TO EXPEDITE ISSUANCE OF TRANSIT VISAS, ISSUE DIPLOMATIC VISAS TO CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF USSR STATE COMMITTEES AND EXTEND 3-5 VISA ISSUANCE COURTESIES TO OFFICIAL PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO CONGENS SAN FRANCISCO AND LENINGRAD. HE NOTED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE HAS BEEN REACHED ON ISSUANCE OF UP TO 1000 VISAS EACH FOR AEROFLOT AND PANAM CREW MEMBERS. CONSULAR COUNSELOR PRESSED GOROKHOV RE SOVIET RESPONSE TO THESE PROPOSALS.

2. AS WE HAD ANTICIPATED, GOROKHOV INDICATED THAT US PROPOSALS WERE TOO THIN TO FORM BASIS OF AGREEMENT. HE AGAIN STATED AND WAS VIGOROUSLY SECONDED BY USA DIVISION MONITOR KUZNETSOV, THAT SOVIET SIDE IS READY TO "SERIOUSLY CONSIDER" FAVORABLE RESPONSES TO OUR REQUESTS FOR TEN EXIT/ENTRY POINTS, MULTIPLE ENTRY/EXIT VISAS FOR BUSINESSMEN, AND EXIT VISAS VALID FOR FULL PERIOD OF STAY IN USSR FOR US SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL EXCHANGEES.

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HOWEVER, THESE SOVIET CONCESSIONS WOULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY IF US SIDE GIVES "SERIOUS CONSIDERATION" TO MFA'S MOST IMPORTANT PROPOSALS. GOROKHOV AND KUZNETSOV FURTHER INDICATED THAT "MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE" FOR SOVIET SIDE NOW IS ISSUANCE OF US DIPLOMATIC VISAS IN SOVIET DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS, SPECIFICALLY TO DEPUTIES OF USSR SUPREME SOVIET. ALTHOUGH HE INCLUDED AMTORG AND OTHER SOVIET COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIONS IN CATEGORY OF THOSE FOR WHICH

SOVIET SIDE WOULD LIKE DIPLOMATIC VISAS, IT APPEARS THAT SOVIET SIDE WOULD SETTLE FOR SPEEDY ISSUANCE AND RENEWAL OF "L" VISAS. SOVIET SIDE STRONGLY INDICATED THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON MANY AGENDA ITEMS OF PRIMARY INTEREST TO US SIDE IF "A" VISAS FOR SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTIES COULD BE AUTHORIZED.

3. IN RESPONSE, CONSULAR COUNSELOR STATED THAT US SIDE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT THAT SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTIES MAY NOT BE ISSUED "A" VISAS. HE THEN POINTED OUT THAT TALKS APPEAR TO BE STALLED AND SUGGESTED INDEFINITE RECESS PENDING CHANGE IN EITHER US OR SOVIET POSITIONS. GOROKHOV, AGAIN SECONDED BY KUZNETSOV, STATED THAT CHANGE WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM US SIDE AND AGREED TO INDEFINITE RECESS. AS DELEGATION WAS LEAVING CONFERENCE ROOM, GOROKHOV TOOK CONSULAR COUNSELOR ASIDE TO STATE "PRIVATELY" THAT HE WAS SURE THAT MANY OF US SIDE'S PRIMARY REQUESTS WOULD BE GRANTED IF US SIDE WOULD BE MORE FORTHCOMING, PRESUMABLY ON VISAS FOR SUPREME SOVIET DEPUTIES.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE STRUCK BY SOVIET POSITION WHICH APPEARS TO MAKE LARGELY PROTOCOL AND COURTESY QUESTION-I.E., DIPLOMATIC VISAS FOR MEMBERS SUPREME SOVIET-THE CENTERPIECE OF CONSULAR REVIEW TALKS. AS AN INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE, SOVIETS WITHDREW OFFER MADE AT EARLY SESSION OF SECOND ROUND TO ISSUE EXIT VISAS TO LONG-TERM EXCHANGEES VALID FOR DURATION OF STAY (MOSCOW 8049). THUS, US PROPOSALS ON CONFIDENTIAL

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EXIT VISAS FOR EXCHANGEES, MULTIPLE ENTRY/EXIT VISAS FOR BUSINESSMEN, AND EXPANSION OF NUMBER OF ENTRY/EXIT POINTS FOR OFFICIAL TRAVEL APPEAR TO HAVE LITTLE CHANCE OF BEING ACCEPTED. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SOVIET SIDE WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE SOME CONCESSION IF US SIDE WOULD AGREE TO EXPEDITIOUS ISSUANCE AND RENEWAL OF "L" VISAS TO SOVIET COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN US (E.G., AMTORG). MATLOCK

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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